

A Look at Folk Tales

{ Global Folklore

“The Tug-of-War Between Elephant and Whale”

- ⌘ Traditional *folk tales* were the oral tradition of adults.
- ⌘ They were stories about peoples' lives and imaginations as they struggled with their fears and anxieties by telling tales.
- ⌘ They helped people to better be able to cope with these fears and anxieties in real life.
- ⌘ While many of these tales weren't told specifically for children it is almost certain that they too would listen and enjoy as well as develop respect for certain elements described in the stories.
- ⌘ The characters, plot, setting, theme, events, and real-life all-ages problems were based on real-life events.

What is a folk tale?

- ⌘ While these classic stories are not only highly entertaining, they also play an important role in passing along core values or character traits.
- ⌘ Folktales were often employed to share a common history, to reinforce cultural values or highlight important traditions.
- ⌘ As folktales were passed down over generations they modeled behaviors and helped reinforce expectations about how to live a meaningful life.
- ⌘ Over time, folktales subtly incorporated character traits like caring, resourcefulness, trust or courage into the fabric of the stories.

Why folk tales are important

⌘ You have heard me give a reading of “The Tug-of-War Between Elephant and Whale.”

⌘ Question Time...

⌘ Is the story supposed to be serious or humorous? How can you tell?

⌘ What is the moral of the story? What would I have wanted people to understand ?

After Listening